

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the spaced-apart transparent/translucent panels are generally parallel to each other.
3. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the panels are made from a material chosen from the group consisting of plastics, fiberglass, perforated metal fabric, and glass.
4. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the panels are chosen from the group consisting of honeycomb cross-section polycarbonate translucent panels and rectangular cross-section polycarbonate translucent panels.
5. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the panels are elongated and the light-controlling members and their light-blocking surfaces generally correspond in length to the length of the panels.
6. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 5~~ claim 49 in which the panels are from about 4 feet to about 40 feet in length.
7. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the transparent/ translucent panels are tinted.
8. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members are positioned in abutting relationship.
9. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light controlling members include contacting engagement surfaces and the engagement surfaces of the light-controlling members are circular.
10. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 9 in which the circular engagement surfaces extend at least about 180° about the circumference of the light-controlling members.

11. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 9 in which the circular engagement surfaces extend 360° about the circumference of the light-controlling members.
12. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members are elongated tubes having an outer circular surface extending at least about 180°.
13. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 12 in which a plurality of rings are spaced along the outer circular surface of the tubes generally perpendicularly to the longitudinal axes of the tubes to achieve rotation of the light-controlling member through 360°.
14. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members are elongated tubes having an outer circular rotational surface extending at least about 360°.
15. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members are spaced from each other while the engagement surfaces remain in contact.
16. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 12 in which the light-blocking members are generally planar and positioned across the diameter of the tube.
17. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 14 in which the light-blocking members are generally planar and positioned across the diameter of the tube.
18. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 16 in which the tube and light-blocking member are co-extruded.
19. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 17 in which the tube and light-blocking member are co-extruded.
20. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members comprise a generally planar light-blocking surface supported within a plurality of rings spaced longitudinally along the light controlling member to achieve rotation of the light-controlling member through 360°.

21. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members are tubular and include longitudinal sills projecting radially from the outer surface of the tubes.

22. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 21~~ claim 49 in which the sills are light-blocking.

23. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 22~~ claim 49 in which adjacent light-controlling members are positioned so that the sills at least partially abut as the light-controlling members rotate.

24. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-controlling members include a first tube with a hemispherical cross-section and an opaque surface across the diameter of the tube and a second tube with a hemispherical cross-section attached across the diameter of the first tube to provide a 360° tubular outer circular rotation surface.

25. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-blocking surfaces include photovoltaic solar cells.

26. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-blocking surfaces are substantially opaque.

27. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-blocking surfaces are substantially semi-opaque.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 including a plurality of unopposed elongated carriage members positioned above the light-controlling members and spaced longitudinally along the light-controlling members.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the carriage members are made of a low friction material or are coated at the scallops with a slippery coating.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 1 in which~~ A transparent/translucent panel unit for varying the level of light passing therethrough comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart transparent/translucent panels;

a plurality of light-controlling members positioned between the panels and mounted for rotation about their longitudinal axes,

the light-controlling members each having at least one substantially light-blocking surface,

the light controlling members further having contacting engagement surfaces comprising bands of a high coefficient of friction material positioned in alignment on adjacent light-controlling members,

whereby the plurality of light-controlling members may be rotated to vary the level of light passing through the panel unit; and

at least one pair of opposed elongated carriage members having a series of scalloped surfaces, the carriage members being positioned between the panels to define annular openings with individual light-controlling members supported for rotational movement within the annular openings.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 1 in which~~ A transparent/translucent panel unit for varying the level of light passing therethrough comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart transparent/translucent panels;

a plurality of light-controlling members positioned between the panels and mounted for rotation about their longitudinal axes,

the light-controlling members each having at least one substantially light-blocking surface,

the light controlling members further having contacting engagement surfaces comprising one or more notched bands positioned in alignment on adjacent light-controlling members,

whereby the plurality of light-controlling members may be rotated to vary the level of light passing through the panel unit; and

at least one pair of opposed elongated carriage members having a series of scalloped surfaces, the carriage members being positioned between the panels to define

annular openings with individual light-controlling members supported for rotational movement within the annular openings.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 1 in which~~ A transparent/translucent panel unit for varying the level of light passing therethrough comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart transparent/translucent panels;

a plurality of light-controlling members positioned between the panels and mounted for rotation about their longitudinal axes,

the light-controlling members each having at least one substantially light-blocking surface,

the light-controlling members further comprising elongated tubes having a cogwheel cross-section including a series of teeth extending along their length so that light-transmitting members intermesh to transmit motion imparted to one member across a plurality of intermeshed light-controlling members,

whereby the plurality of light-controlling members may be rotated to vary the level of light passing through the panel unit; and

at least one pair of opposed elongated carriage members having a series of scalloped surfaces, the carriage members being positioned between the panels to define annular openings with individual light-controlling members supported for rotational movement within the annular openings.

35. (Original) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 34 in which the light-blocking member is positioned within the cogwheel cross-section between a diametrically opposed pair of teeth.

36. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 including a panel of a non-combustible generally light-transmitting material positioned within the panel unit above the light-controlling members.

37. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 including an air space between the panels and a light-transmitting fire resistant insulating material disposed within the air space.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)
40. (Cancelled)
41. (Cancelled)
42. (Cancelled)
43. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the panel is made from a polycarbonate or acrylic plastic.
44. (Cancelled)
45. (Currently Amended) The transparent/translucent panel unit of ~~claim 1~~ claim 49 in which the light-blocking surfaces of a plurality of the light-controlling members are segmented to each include at least one transparent/translucent segment and at least one opaque segment.
46. (Cancelled)
47. (Cancelled)
48. (Previously presented) A transparent/translucent panel unit for varying the level of light passing therethrough comprising:
- a pair of spaced-apart transparent/translucent panels;
 - a plurality of light-controlling members positioned between the panels and mounted for rotation about their longitudinal axes,
 - the light-controlling members each having at least one substantially light-blocking surface and at least one engagement surface in contact with an engagement surface of an adjacent light-controlling member,
 - whereby the plurality of light-controlling members may be rotated by imparting rotary motion to at least one of the light-controlling members and transmitting the rotary motion across the contacting engagement surfaces of adjacent light-controlling members to rotate the light-blocking surfaces and vary the level of light passing through the panel unit; and

an elongated carriage member having a series of scalloped surfaces, the carriage member being positioned between the panels and above the light-controlling members with individual light-controlling members received for rotational movement within corresponding scalloped surfaces in the carriage member.

49. (Previously Presented) A transparent/translucent panel unit for varying the level of light passing therethrough comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart transparent/translucent panels;

a plurality of light-controlling members positioned between the panels and mounted for rotation about their longitudinal axes,

the light-controlling members each having at least one substantially light-blocking surface,

whereby the plurality of light-controlling members may be rotated to vary the level of light passing through the panel unit; and

at least one unopposed elongated carriage member positioned between the panels and above the light-controlling members.

50. (Previously Presented) The transparent/translucent panel unit of claim 49 in which the unopposed elongated carriage member has a series of scalloped surfaces to define annular openings for individual light-controlling members.